

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating in a medical study, comprising:
  - a microprocessor-based controller; and
  - a computer readable medium, including instructions executable by the microprocessor-base controller to:
    - receive patient medical information from a physician relating to the medical study;
    - automatically validate the patient medical information;
    - upon validating the patient medical information, store a reimbursement record in a database, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and
    - automatically process at least one reimbursement ~~reimbursement~~ to each physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.
2. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the patient medical information is selected from the group consisting of medical device information, subjective patient information, objective patient information, and patient diagnosis information.
3. (Original) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database includes a plurality of reimbursement records, and wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
  - group at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records into a single reimbursement file; and
  - provide to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Original) The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the reimbursement file is electronically forwarded to the approval authority.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
process ~~reimbursement~~ reimbursements to the physicians upon approval by the approval authority.

8. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
electronically transmit the reimbursement file to an accounting system adapted to process the ~~reimbursement~~ reimbursements to the physicians upon approval by the approval authority.

9. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database includes a plurality of reimbursement records associated with one physician, and wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
accumulate the plurality of reimbursement records for the one physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and  
process a single reimbursement ~~reimbursement~~ for the single reimbursement record.

10. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:  
accumulate a plurality of reimbursement records in the database for one or more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and  
process one or more ~~reimbursement~~ reimbursements to each of the one or more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

11. (Currently Amended) A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating in a medical study, comprising:

means for receiving patient medical information from a physician relating to the medical study;  
means for automatically validating the patient medical information;  
means for storing a reimbursement record in a database upon validating the patient medical information, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and  
means for automatically processing at least one reimbursement ~~reimbursement~~ to each physician having reimbursement records in the database.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Original) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the database includes a plurality of reimbursement records, and wherein the system further comprises:

means for grouping at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records into a single reimbursement file; and  
means for providing to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

14.- 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the database includes a plurality of reimbursement records associated with one physician, and wherein the system further comprises:

means for accumulating the plurality of reimbursement records for the one physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and  
means for processing a single reimbursement ~~reimbursement~~ for the single reimbursement record.

20. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the system further comprises:

means for accumulating a plurality of reimbursement records in the database for one or more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and

means for processing one or more ~~reimbursement~~ reimbursements to each of the one or more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating in one or more medical studies, wherein the one or more medical studies require physicians to perform procedures on one or more patients, the system comprising:

- a microprocessor-based controller;
- a computer readable medium, wherein the computer readable medium includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
  - receive medical procedure information from one or more physicians for each procedure performed by the one or more physicians on the one or more patients in the medical study;
  - automatically validate the medical procedure information;
  - upon validating the medical procedure information, store a reimbursement record in a database for each procedure, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and
  - automatically process at least one reimbursement ~~reimbursement~~ to each physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:

- group at least some of the reimbursement records in the database into a single reimbursement file; and
- provide to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

24. (Original) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the reimbursement file comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the reimbursement records listed therein.

25. (Original) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the reimbursement file is electronically forwarded to the approval authority.

26. (Cancelled)
27. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
- process ~~reimbursement~~ reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon approval by the approval authority.
28. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
- electronically transmit the reimbursement file to an accounting system adapted to process the ~~reimbursement~~ reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon approval by the approval authority.
29. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the database includes a plurality of reimbursement records associated with at least one of the one or more physicians, and wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
- accumulate the plurality of reimbursement records for the at least one physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and
  - process a single reimbursement ~~reimbursement~~ for the plurality for the single reimbursement record.
30. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
- accumulate one or more reimbursement records in the database for the one or more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and
  - process one or more ~~reimbursement~~ reimbursements to each of the one or more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.
31. (Currently Amended) A method for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating in one or more medical studies, wherein the one or more medical studies require

physicians to perform procedures on one or more patients, the method comprising:

- receiving medical procedure information from one or more physicians for each procedure performed by the one or more physicians on the one or more patients in the medical study;
- automatically validating the medical procedure information;
- upon validating the medical procedure information, storing a reimbursement record in a database for each procedure, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and
- automatically processing at least one reimbursement ~~reimbursement~~ to each physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

32. (Original) The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the medical procedure information comprises information selected from the group consisting of medical device information, subjective patient information, objective patient information, medical procedure information, and patient diagnosis information.

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Original) The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the reimbursement file comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the reimbursement records listed therein.

35. (Original) The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising forwarding the reimbursement file to the approval authority electronically.

36. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising the approval authority approving the reimbursement records for ~~reimbursement~~ reimbursements electronically.

37. – 40. (Cancelled)